CIRCULAR

OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE

ANNEXATION ASSOCIATION

OF

MONTREAL.

Office of the Annexation Association,
Montreal, December 7, 1849.

The Montreal Annexation Association desirous of urging upon the people of Canada the question of peaceable separation from Great Britain and of Annexation to the United States, have instructed us to forward to you a copy of the Address to the People of Canada already published, together with other documents showing the steps that have been taken by the Association in this City. They have done this in the hope that you are favorable to the cause for which this Association has been founded, and disposed to co-operate with them by exertion in your own neighbourhood. This might be done by the organization of similar Associations for Counties, Townships or Parishes throughout Canada, or by other means, which may suggest themselves to you as most suitable for your own locality.

We are directed, at the same time, to request from you any information which you may be disposed to communicate, and which may be of advantage to the cause, and to state that this Association will be happy to furnish you with similar information calculated to promote our mutual object, as it is important that regular communications should be kept up among the friends of the cause throughout the country.

R. MACKAY, }
A. A. DORION, } *Secretaries.*

TO THE PEOPLE OF CANADA.

THE number and magnitude of the evils that afflict our country, and the universal and increasing depression of its material interests, call upon all persons animated by a sincere desire for its welfare to combine for the purposes of inquiry and preparation with a view to the adoption of such remedies as a mature and dispassionate investigation may suggest.

Belonging to all parties, origins and creeds, but yet agreed upon the advantage of co-operation for the performance of a common duty to ourselves and our country, growing out of a common necessity, we have consented, in view of a brighter and happier future, to merge in oblivion all past differences of whatever character, or attributable to whatever source. In appealing to our Fellow-Colonists to unite with us in this our most needful duty, we solemnly conjure them, as they desire a successful issue and the welfare of their country, to enter upon the task at this momentous crisis in the same fraternal spirit.

The reversal of the ancient policy of Great Britain, whereby she withdrew from the Colonies their wonted protection in her markets has produced the most disastrous effects upon Canada. In surveying the actual condition of the country, what but ruin or rapid decay meets the eye? Our Provincial Government and Civic Corporations embarrassed; our banking and other securities greatly depreciated; our mercantile and agricultural interests alike unprosperous; real estate scarcely saleable upon any terms; our unrivalled rivers, lakes and canals almost unused; whilst commerce abandons our shores, the circulating capital amassed under a more favourable system is dissipated, with none from any quarter to replace it. Thus, without available capital, unable to effect a loan with Foreign States, or with the Mother Country, although offering security greatly superior to that which readily obtains money both from the United States and Great Britain, when other than Colonists are the applicants;—crippled, therefore, and checked in the full career of private and public enterprise, this possession of the British Crown—our country—stands before the world in humiliating contrast with its immediate neighbours, exhibiting every symptom of a nation fast sinking to decay.

With superabundant water power and cheap labour, especially in Lower Canada, we have yet no domestic manufactures; nor can the most sanguine, unless under altered circumstances, anticipate the home growth, or advent from foreign parts, of either capital or enterprise, to embark in this great source of national wealth. Our institutions, unhappily, have not that impress of permanence which can alone impart security and inspire confidence, and the Canadian market is too limited to tempt the foreign capitalist.

Whilst the adjoining States are covered with a net-work of thriving railways, Canada possesses but three lines, which, together, scarcely exceed 50 miles in length, and the stock in two of which is held at a depreciation of from 50 to 80 per cent.—a fatal symptom of the torpor overspreading the land.

Our present form of Provincial Government is cumbrous and so expensive, as to be ill suited to the circumstances of the country; and the necessary reference it demands to a distant Government, imperfectly acquainted with Canadian affairs, and somewhat indifferent to our interests, is anomalous and irksome. Yet, in the event of a rupture between two of the most powerful nations of the world, Canada would become the battle-field and the sufferer, however little her interests might be involved in the cause of quarrel or the issue of the contest.

The bitter animosities of political parties and factions in Canada, often leading to violence, and, upon one occasion, to civil war, seem not to have abated with time; nor is there, at the present moment, any prospect of diminution or accommodation. The aspect of parties becomes daily more threatening towards each other, and under our existing institutions and relations, little hope is discernible of a peaceful and prosperous administration of our affairs, but difficulties will, to all appearance, accumulate until government becomes impracticable. In this view of our position, any course that may propose to efface existing party distinctions and place entirely new issues before the people, must be fraught with undeniable advantages.

Among the statesmen of the Mother Country—among the sagacious observers of the neighbouring Republic—in Canada—and in all British North America—amongst all classes there is a strong pervading conviction that a political revolution in this country is at hand. Such forebodings cannot readily be dispelled, and they have, moreover, a tendency to realize the events to which they point. In the meantime, serious injury results to Canada from the effect of this anticipation upon the more desirable class of settlers, who naturally prefer a country under fixed and permanent forms of government to one in a state of transition.

Having thus adverted to some of the causes of our present evils, we would consider how far the remedies ordinarily proposed possess sound and rational inducements to justify their adoption:

1.—"The revival of protection in the markets of the United Kingdom."

This, if attainable in a sufficient degree, and guaranteed for a long period of years, would ameliorate the condition of many of our chief interests, but the policy of the empire forbids the anticipation. Besides, it would be but a partial remedy. The millions of the Mother Country demand cheap food; and a second change from protection to free trade would complete that ruin which the first has done much to achieve.

2.—"The protection of home manufactures."

Although this might encourage the growth of a manufacturing interest in Canada, yet, without access to the United States market, there would not be a sufficient expansion of that interest, from the want of consumers, to work any result that could be admitted as a "remedy" for the numerous evils of which we complain.

3.—"A federal union of the British American Provinces."

The advantages claimed for that arrangement are free trade between the different Provinces, and a diminished governmental expenditure. The attainment of the latter object would be problematical, and the benefits anticipated from the former might be secured by legislation under our existing system. The markets of the Sister Provinces would not benefit our trade in timber, for they have a surplus of that article in their own forests; and their demand for agricultural products would be too limited to absorb our means of supply. Nor could Canada expect any encouragement to her manufacturing industry from those quarters. A federal union, therefore, would be no remedy.

4.—"The Independance of the British North American Colonies as a Federal Republic."

The consolidation of its new institutions from elements hitherto so discordant—the formation of treaties with foreign powers—the acquirement of a name and character among the nations—would, we fear, prove an over-match for the strength of the new Republic. And, having regard to the powerful confederacy of States conterminous with itself, the needful military defences would be too costly to render independence a boon, whilst it would not, any more than a federal union, remove those obstacles which retard our material prosperity.

5.—"Reciprocal free trade with the United States, as respects the products of the farm, the forest, and the mine."

If obtained, this would yield but an instalment of the many advantages which might be otherwise secured. The free interchange of such products would not introduce manufactures to our country. It would not give us the North American Continent for our market. It would neither so amend our institutions as to confer stability nor ensure confidence in their permanence, nor would it allay the violence of parties, or, in the slightest degree, remedy many of our prominent evils.

6.—Of all the remedies that have been suggested for the acknowledged and insufferable ills with which our country is afflicted, there remains but one to be considered. It propounds a sweeping and important change in our political and social condition involving considerations which demand our most serious examination. **THIS REMEDY CONSISTS IN A FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL SEPARATION FROM BRITISH CONNECTION AND A UNION UPON EQUITABLE TERMS WITH THE GREAT NORTH AMERICAN CONFEDERACY OF SOVEREIGN STATES.**

We would premise that towards Great Britain we entertain none other than sentiments of kindness and respect. Without her consent we consider separation as neither practicable nor desirable. But the Colonial policy of the Parent State, the avowals of her leading statesmen, the public sentiments of the Empire, present unmistakeable and significant indications of the appreciation of Colonial connection. That it is the resolve of England to invest us with the attributes and compel us to assume the burdens of independence is no longer problematical. The threatened withdrawal of her troops from other colonies—the continuance of her military protection to ourselves only on the condition that we shall defray the attendant expenditure, betoken intentions towards our country, against which it is weakness in us not to provide. An overruling conviction, then, of its necessity, and a high sense of the duty we owe to our country, a duty we can neither disregard nor postpone, impel us to entertain the idea of separation; and whatever negociations may eventuate with Great Britain, a grateful liberality on the part of Canada should mark every proceeding.

The proposed union would render Canada a field for American capital into which it would enter as freely for the prosecution of public works and private enterprise as into any of the present States. It would equalise the value of real estate upon both sides of the boundary, thereby probably doubling at once the entire present value of property in Canada, whilst, by giving stability to our institutions, and introducing prosperity, it would raise our public, corporate, and private credit. It would increase our commerce, both with the United States and foreign countries, and would not necessarily diminish, to any great extent, our intercourse with Great Britain, into which our products would, for the most part, enter on the same terms as at present. It would render our rivers and canals the highway fo

the immigration to, and exports from, the West, to the incalculable benefit of our country. It would also introduce manufactures into Canada as rapidly as they have been introduced into the Northern States; and to Lower Canada especially, where water privileges and labour are abundant and cheap, it would attract manufacturing capital, enhancing the value of property and agricultural produce, and giving remunerative employment to what is at present a comparatively non-producing population. Nor would the United States merely furnish the capital for our manufactures. They would also supply for them the most extensive market in the world, without the intervention of a Custom House Officer. Railways would forthwith be constructed by American capital as feeders for the great lines now approaching our frontiers; and railway enterprise in general would doubtless be as as active and prosperous among us as among our neighbours. The value of our agricultural produce would be raised at once to a par with that of the United States, whilst agricultural implements and many of the necessaries of life, such as tea, coffee and sugar, would be greatly reduced in price.

The value of our timber would also be greatly enhanced by free access to the American market, where it bears a high price, but is subject to an onerous duty. At the same time, there is every reason to believe that our shipbuilders, as well at Quebec as on the Great Lakes, would find an unlimited market in all the ports of the American continent. It cannot be doubted that the shipping trade of the United States must greatly increase. It is equally manifest that, with them, the principal material in the construction of ships is rapidly diminishing, while we possess vast territories, covered with timber of excellent quality, which would be equally available as it is now, since under the free trade system our vessels would sell as well in England after annexation as before.

The simple and economical State Government, in which direct responsibility to the people is a distinguishing feature, would be substituted for a system at once cumbrous and expensive.

In place of war and the alarms of war with a neighbour, there would be peace and amnity between this country and the United States. Disagreements between the United States and her chief, if not only rival among nations, would not make the soil of Canada the sanguinary arena for their disputes, as, under our existing relations, must necessarily be the case. That such is the unenviable condition of our state of dependence upon Great Britain is known to the whole world, and how far it may conduce to keep prudent capitalists from making investments in the country, or wealthy settlers from selecting a fore-doomed battle-field for the home of themselves and their children, it needs no reasoning on our part to elucidate.

But other advantages than those having a bearing on our material interests may be foretold. It would change the ground of political contest between races and parties, allay and obliterate those irritations and conflicts of rancour and recrimination which have hitherto disfigured our social fabric. Already in anticipation has its harmonious influence been felt—the harbinger, may it be hoped, of a lasting oblivion of dissensions among all classes, creeds and parties in the country. Changing a subordinate for an independent condition, we would take our station among the nations of the earth. We have, now, no voice in the affairs of the Empire, nor do we share in its honors or emoluments. England is our Parent State, with whom we have no equality, but towards whom we stand in the simple relation of obedience. But as citizens of the United States the public service of the nation would be open to us—a field for high and honorable distinction on which we and our posterity might enter on terms of perfect equality.

Nor would the amicable separation of Canada from Great Britain be fraught with advantages to us alone. The relief to the Parent State from the large expenditure now incurred in the military occupation of the country—the removal of the many causes of collision with the United States, which result from the contiguity of mutual territories so extensive—the benefit of the larger market which the increasing prosperity of Canada would create, are considerations which, in the minds of many of her ablest statesmen, render our incorporation with the United States a desirable consummation.

To the United States, also, the annexation of Canada presents many important inducements. The withdrawal from their borders of so powerful a nation, by whom in time of war the immense and growing commerce of the lakes would be jeopardized—the ability to dispense with the costly but ineffectual revenue establishment over a frontier of many hundred miles—the large accession to their income from our Customs—the unrestricted use of the St. Lawrence, the natural highway from the Western States to the ocean, are objects for the attainment of which the most substantial equivalents would undoubtedly be conceded.

FELLOW-COLONISTS,

We have thus laid before you our views and convictions on a momentous question—involving a change, which, though contemplated by many of us with varied feelings and emotions, we all believe to be inevitable;—one which it is our duty to provide for, and lawfully to promote.

We address you without prejudice or partiality—in the spirit of sincerity and truth—in the interest solely of our common country—and our single aim is its safety and welfare.

If to your judgment and reason our object and aim be at this time deemed laudable and right, we ask an oblivion of past dissensions; and from all, without distinction of origins party, or creed, that earnest and cordial co-operation in such lawful, prudent, and judicious means as may best conduct us to our common destiny.

John Torrance, Jacob DeWitt, M P P, J Redpath, John Molson, David Torrance, William Workman, D L Macpherson, Thomas B Anderson, L H Holton, J G Mackenzie, P H Knowlton, M L C, Loup Odell, Robert Mackay, Benjamin Holmes, David Kinnear, John Rose, John Glass, Charles Bockus, Benjamin Brewster, John Ostell, R Corse, Jason C Pierce, Joseph Knapp, William Murray, Edward Way, John Frothingham, Sabrevois DeBleury, Stanley Bagg, Alex Bryson, Allan McDonell, H Busseau, W D Lindsay, Norton B Corse, Henry Chapman, William Muir, Charles Phillips, John Monk, William Molson, Louis Boyer, Jean Bruneau, Wm Gemmill, D Lorn Macdougall, Edward Maitland, Benjamin Hart, John Tully, John Bell, Geo Weeks, John M Tobin, Edwin Atwater, J B A Couillard, Robt Anderson, James Sadlier, Benj Workman, H L Routh, F G Johnson, Q C, John Orr, Hugh Taylor, M M'Culloch, M D, Abner Bagg, Louis Blanchard, Thomas Forsyth, John Yule, Jr, John Carter, Thomas Peck, Peter W Dease, J B Asselin, Geo Perry (Cobourg), John Fisher, Sydney Jones, J B Torry, J F Cowell, Michael Kelly, James R Orr, John Henderson, Root Cross, Jno Mathewson, Robt Esdaile, Theodore Lyman, F T Hall, J W Torrance, John McGillis, William McDougall, Joseph Ward, Robt Morton, Geo Brush, Francis Mullins, William Allen, Thos Redhead, R U Innes, Alex Urquhart, James Gordon, John McCoy, James Paterson, Noah Shaw, Z B Clark, N B Corse, Jas Haldane, M Buck, John McCrow, Jas C Beers, Charles Alexander, Wm Lawley, Norman McDonald, Robert Graham, A W Atwater, Chas Seymour, Robert Mills, Walter McFarlane, C Gallagher, S H Day, Jas Thompson (Laprairie), Joseph Ryan, Hugh Thompson, T J Green, Nicholas Ryan, J Egar, E S Taylor, Charles Warren, David Milligan, Chas D Proctor, James Crayk, Charles Campbell, Richard Robinson, Thomas Neagle, John Clancey, George Fellers, T Miller, George Groves, Edward Murphy, Andrew Hays, Henry Archhold, C E Seymour, Joseph Savage, James Taylor (St. Armand), I J C Abbott, C M Kelly, James Benny, John Whitelaw, M H Seymour, John Sutherland, Geo A Holland, H H Whitney, N S Whitney, James Douglas, Nelson Davis, J H Evans, Wm Brooks, B Hutchins, James Charles, Henry Brewater, M Babcock, James P Clark, C D Shaw, Wm McBean, George Morton, Charles Mayo, Benj Francis, Robt Adams, N O Green, Louis Gnaidinger, Rom Trudeau, P Murphy, John Kain, Alex Murphy, Peter Dunn, James Ferrier, Jr, David Ferguson, George D. Ferrier, Archd Ferguson, David Paton, Edward Maxwell, William Hutchison, James Moricon, Thos M Taylor, Alexr McDonald, Adam Stevenson, James Barnard, Peter Redpath, James Torrance, John Kay, W C Evans, Robt Campbell, J H Springle, John Boyd, And Wilson, Hugh Craig, Jos C Price, William Todd, Saml Benjamin, James Lewis, Goodman Benjamin, David Lewis, Alfred Savage, A King Levicount, James Hutton, John Sproston, John Gordon, Charles Geddes, Dugald Stewart, S S McCunig, George Easton, Norman S Frost, Thomas Gordon, James Harvey, John Kerr, J A Perkins, S E Gregory, George Browne, William McDonald, Geo Hall, Thos Kay, Saml Mathewson, James Patton, Donald Ross, Geo Wright, Jno Sinclair, William Stephen, Wm Watson, T D Hall, John Whyte, John Leeming, Benj Lyman, Arch McFarlane, J H Birss, And McFarlane, Ed Howell, Isaac R Eckart, Jos N Hall, Ferdinand Smith, J G Shipway, J Esdaile, Hy Mulholland, J Mahony, George Bent, Neil McIntosh, Robt Chalmers, Chas Chalmers, Thomas Workman, Thomas Whitty, John McArthur, A Ramsay, Jas Scott, Jr, Theodore Hart, Henry Lyman, Ebenezer Muir, P Drumgoole, Philip Whitty, William Whitty, P Larkin, Mich McDonel, James McShane, Richd Philbin, John Wright, Edward Carter, John Whitty, W L Holdimand, James Potts, Pierre Larue, E R Green, E C Tuttle, H S Bohl, Michel Collette, Fre Duclos, Germain Lepege, C Quevirion, D H Warren, Rinaldo Fuller, Wm Dier, W W Janes, Pierre Hudson, Thos Coalette, E B Dufort, P P Martin, Francis Warren, J B Germain, N Poirier, John Cassidy, Jules Guildry, J Bte Gadbois, W G Stethem, Alex Fleck, A Venner, Maxieme Lemyr, A Lesperance, Thos McGrath, P Bte Pautré, Edouard Rivet, D Farrell, Jas Irwin, Adolphe Roy, L J Beliveau, John P Murphy, Michl Foley, John Kelly, Henry Peacock, A Bourne, P O Sullivan, Joseph Potts, C S Souvrier, Walter Charles, T Letourneux, John McDonald, Alexis Cusson, James Muir, Henry E Benson, E Baird, T Woodside, G L Rolland, L Fortier, P LeSueur, Jno Loughry, A Regnier, Henry Carleton, R E Seymour, Wilder Pierce, J Slack, John Brown, Thos Moreland, T C Panton, A Burroughs, Joseph Kirkup, Ashley

Hibbard, Thos Borbridge, Simon McT Charles, Joseph Aumond, Hon R Jones, Jas Logan, H Seymour, Wm Barley, A Cook, T M Bryson, Thos Patton, Edmond Bryson, John McLean, John F Hilton, Jermh Blanchard, A A Murphy, John A Converse, Thomas McCormick, James Sculthrop, Walter Scott, Louis Siméon, Geo H Wheeler, G Castle, J McGinnies, Thomas Yeoman, Robert Wishart, Wm Prentice, James H Ward, G Mochrie, J Grant, Charles Kadwell, James Moore, Robert Froste, Patrick Reynolds, William Clarke, Janv H Terroux, E E Gilbert, John Pierce, R F Robertson, G E Jacques, Alex Pollock, Hugh Craig, Patrick Brennan, Matthew Kearny, W Wamsley, Geo E Molson, Joseph Lee, James Maxwell, William Hurst, Danl Surgeon, Chas Windsor, William Kilpatrick, John Chedwick, John Boyle, W M Miller, Robert Allan, Francis Brodie, Geo Rogers, Thomas Pepper, James Wooly, Hugh Syms, John Syms, James Wallace, Jerry Vicenor, Edward Lemay De Lorme, Jas Graham, Wm Smith, Robt Wright, John McLaughlin, Jas Blair, Wm Cowan, Thos Tucker, Hugh Cowan, John Grant, Wm Shepherd, Richard Hudson, Jas Inglis, James Wickens, Daniel McQueen, James Atchison, Wm Smith, Robt Carson, Isaiei Plean, David Moss, E D Lalenne, A Farewall (Oshawa), T E Gibson, William McNally, M Ramsay, Geo Watson, Charles Williams, Martin Ryan, C Donnelly, Thomas Hacket, John McGill, Alfred Lusignan, James O'Hera, William Harsington, John Long, Jacob H DeWitt, A McDonell, Jas Scott, Henry A Glassford, Samuel Linton, James Dagg, E Moss, Maxime Roere, Henry Harkin, William Rodden, J Henry Lamb, H N Clark, Archibald McGoun, Joseph A Lovis, David Ree, Pierre Lessard, George Hager, Oliver Lepage, Francis McNamee, James R Hutchins, John Thompson, Alex Bertram, Joseph Clark, Patrick Robie, William McArthur, George Duffield, David Mann, John Grant, Jas Bude, Nicholas Bede, Wm Footner, James Butler, J Cushing, G Scott, G Binmore, P Cooper, W Kennedy, Jas Thomson, J Bernard, John Binmore, James Baylis, John S Sanders, John Greig, Wm Rice, A Cruikshank, John Brodie, David Vass, Robert W S MacKay, D Darling, W Wrigley, W Ladlam, J M Bonacina, John O'Meara, W V Courtney, Louis J Lamontagne, J E Malhiot, Chas Bourdon, Robinson Ruston, Chas Lindsay, Andw Mann, H Owen, Henry Wray, R Latham, J W Harrison, George Sparkes, A Miller, T C Dean, John Bethune, James Bracken, Thomas Mathews, George Ashley, Peter McGrib, Wm Smith, Robert Mack, Thomas Jones, Samuel Mack, James Muir, John McKeon, David Muir, John Keenan, B A Scears, James Gunn, John Wiseman, Samuel Wilson, John Latamore, Charles Wilkins, John Dotherty, David Cowan, James King, Waddle King, James Waldie, John Waldie, James Warren, John Henderson, John Moody, Irvin Howard, Andrew Moir, James Moir, John McLaughlin, James McLaughlin, Edward McLaughlin, John Rogers, James Robinson, George MacKay, Angus Leitch, James Dagg, Forest Locke, Frs McDonnell, M English, John Cosgrove, Jos Gravel, E Anger, Frs Lamaureaux, Miles McMillan, J A Gagnon, F X Brazeau, M Laverdure, P Lachapelle (Côte des Neiges), A Garlépy, L A G Laflamme, P G Papineau, A Tellier, J B E Tellier, A Mousseau, J B Franchère, E B Desmarteau, J J Hazen, L Michon, E Roy, J P Chagnon dit Lacoste, Louis Lazure, Ant Guimond, J Bte Julien, Sen, J Bte Julien, Jun, T Cadotte, A Lapierre, André Prevost, J Bte Gadebois, Maxime Lemyre, Chs Lefèbre, Roch Pelletier, Dominique Dupont, A Duburd, J B Germain, C Dansereau, Joseph DeMontigny, H Lamontagne, J E Mailhiot, J G Bibaud, M D, L Gauthier, Joseph Lovis, Edouard Beaudry, E Hauselman, Joseph Dorval, Amable Dorval, M Lanctot, J Lenoir, C Dessaulles, P N Collerette, Louis Lambert, Joseph Le Labreche Viger, Chs Laberge, Jos R Giroux, J Papin, Robert Wishat, Leadre Lafontaine, Alexandre Pellant, N M Lebeau, C N Cinq-Mars, P M M Cinq-Mars, S Poulin, Joseph Barsalou, Napoleon Lamoureux, Jacques A Plinguet, Chas Griffard, Chas Bertrand, E Gagnon, C F Papineau, N P, A Cadotte, Jean DeMontigny, Jos Coursolles, F X DeMontigny, Honoré St Marcel, D Collin, S Laramée, C W Huston, R Laflamme, W P V Dorion, Alex Archambault, P Blanchet, Fleury St Jean, D E Papineau, N P, J L Bérubé, Jean Leclaire, Frs R Bernard, Isidore Leclaire, C Arcouet, Louis Lemay, Gilbert Lavois, Théophile Lavinge, A D Derome, Z Sauvageau, J R Sincennes, A Bérubé, Chs Lamontagne, A A Dorion, C H Lamontagne, N Bisaillon, S Martin, John O'Mara, W B Courtney, L J Lamontagne, J Cajetan, F S MacKay, N P, H A Fissault, A C Papineau, J M Lamothe, Louis J Longpré, Chs Bourdon, E H Merrill, David Noel, J B E Dorion, C Lateurneaux, Thos Wilson, Jos Trudeau, H Vandal, Janvier Rollin, A Desmarai, N P, M A Fournier, Joseph Ryan, J M Fournier, A Dufresne, S Fournier, C J J Leclaire, J Emery Godere, M D, H Lappare, N P, N Lepaillier, J E O Labadie, Adolphe Labadie, Edmond Labadie, D Ollier, Wilbrod Lapparre, Jos Courselle, F Duré, N Bétourney, Antoine Duburd, J Duburd, Joseph Geroux, P S Daniel, W F Daniel, F Pommierville, A Magnan, G Matthews, W A Merry, E Lyman Mills, G C

Abill, J B Smith, W H Clare, R W Leslie, H B Smith, Charles Hagar, Richard MacDonnell, John Keller, Wm Walker, L Cushing, Cephus Mills, Duncan McCallum, M D, P A Murphy, John Charles, J Butters, Orton Pease, John L Campbell, Joseph Mitchell, George Adams, Robt Aspinall, Robert Nicholson, George Airde, Wm Cheesman, James Macdonald, S Harvey, Wm Leavers, M Knowlan, Crawford Glen, Daniel Bruce Ronne, James Brown, Thos Peel, Andw Elliott, Daniel Carey, Wm Thorn, Patrick Maher, Robt Pennie, Henry Bulmer, J W Taylor, David Young, Alexander Ramsay, John McCallum, Andrew Paton, Wm Dow, Jas Gillerd, Joseph Kilgour, A S Macbean, John Skimmings, Charles Doherty, John Doherty, Thos Bell, John Chester, John Forbes, John Morrison, Robert Mitchel, George MacDougall, Joseph Kilgour, Alex McGregor, John Gilmour, Adam Lothian, Thomas B Prentis, James Poet, C Dorwin, D McMillin, P D Brown, Robert Wood, T Donohoe, Edward Murphy, W J Holmes, Archibald Bills, M Boan, Thos Rafter, John Greig, John Kelly, J L Thompson, D'Uturne St Jermine, Martin Price, John Duncan, A D Reeves, C Fitts, Thos Cole, Thomas C Sloan, George Reinardt, William Benjamin, Rice Sharpley, M Ollendorff, P Swords, G Reinhart, W M'Ginnis, George Van Buskirk, A Giard, George McKerracher, Nicholas McIntosh, P B Badeaux, Alfred Chapple, L C Macaire, Daniel O'Connor, J Escalonne, Joseph H Mead, William Cousens, J W Harrison, George Sparks, A Millar, John Hilton, John Atkinson, Thomas Turner, John Irvine, Marshall A Buck, William Weir, J T Barrett, W R Seaver, Ralph Jones, Cobourg, C W, W N Crawford, Hector Munro, Daniel Murphy, William Megill, N G McIntire, John Caithes, Saml English, Thomas Bryson, Jr, Thomas James, Samuel Wilson, J Adams Mathewson, George Childs, John Murphy, Hugh Warnock, Christopher Healy, Wm Dobson, J Stevenson, J J Madden, H Chisholm, Wilson B Allan, John Meagher, Edward Mansfield, John Allan, Peter Anderson, Wilson Allan, Thomas Foster, Angus McIntosh, Laurence Shane, Joseph Venables, Henry Smith, Daniel Donovan, William Dunlop, Robt Drake, Wm R Tabb, P Hagarty, John Connor, Heratio N Tabb, Michael Connor, E Sanderson, Patrick Clifford, George McGrath, Thomas McGrath, John Welsh, Andw Sheerin, Robert Wishert, Thomas Templeton, John Bridges, John Lyon, John Henderson, John Gardner, James Henderson, James Dunn, James Taylor, Charles Dease, Daniel Kerens, Constant White, James Vincent, W Easton, John Dunlop, William Nolan, Edward Murray, John Nolan, John Cavanagh, James Lavery, William Berry, John Hannan, Lawrence Hanratty, Patrick Hannon, Geo Clark, Daniel Kennedy, Joseph Sargisan, John Quain, John Power, Michael Meehan, Lancelot Franklin, William Boon, William MacClory, Martin Donahue, Parrick Maley, John McDonald, L McGovern, John Mollowney, Richard Booth, Henry Vernor, William McKinlay, Michael Finny, G L McKay, D McCallum, John Hutchinson, James Colgan, James Doherty, James McShane, John Ryan, John Mitchel, Jeremiah Ryan, Daniel Ryan, James Kreagen, John Donnelly, Joseph Currigan, Henry Deery, Thomas Kerfut, Patrick Nugent, Wm Kiernan, Edward N Warner, Timothy O'Brien, William Cullen, Samuel Wardley, A Wardley, B Madden, W R Scott, A S Miller, M Meigham, Samuel Cauthers, R Blackwood, George Taylor, Geo McIver, N W Crawford, John McWaters, Jr, John Donegani, Jno Campbell, Jesse Thayer, John Levey, C Krieghoff, David Glen, H W Ireland, W P Smith, Wm Borbridge, W W Ready, H Stephens, W S Austin, J Adams, I Noshes, J L Leprohon, MD, Michel Kelly, P Murphy, Patrick Murry, Jno Barry, M O'Keefe, Jno O'Keefe, Michael Gleeson, William Bain, Jas Dalton, A Ryan, John Cameir, John Dorten, Patrick Cane, F Flynn, Patrick Murray, Richard Sheney, Thos Shelly, Edwd Gowan, James Cunan, Jas Flynn, Michael Ryan, James Carroll, John Mooney, Jno Carroll, Wm Bergin, Thos Ennis, Geo Cutter, D W Eager, Edward Sharpe, James Dunbar, S P Tilton, Hugh McMillen, Louis Valigny, Bernard Kean, Homer Taylor, Walter Lyle, William Gall, William Robertson, John Taylor, George Gray, William Beattie, John Bonner, John O'Connor, Edward O'Connor, Robert McIntosh, Wm Park, Thomas Bowerbank, Wm Gunn, William L Eagar, William Matthews, John O Day, James Hay, Michael Murphy, Owen Conroy, Joseph Wright, N Power, Wm Murphy, John Ryan, Peter McShane, James Seery, Jeremiah Murphy, James Welsh, John Sanders, James Haliday, Geo Stacy, Dominick O'Hara, James Parker, William Parker, Robert Ben Currigan, Parker, Edward Flynn, Michael Burns, John Feron, Alex Wallace, Chas F Muckle, Patrick Larkin, George P Warren, Robert Warner, Henry Londreau, Moses Daveis, Thomas Dednam, William Watson, Charles Midgley, Arthur Fairon, John Williamson, Jas Stewart, John Cauthers, William Cooper, Thomas Sims, John Low, George Alexander, Thos O'Reiley, John Cassdy, Martin Feron, James Clark, Edward Goff Penny, S Jones Lyman, James Robertson, Wm Moody, George Touzeau, John Anderson, Andrew Stevenson.

ANNEXATION MEETING.

PURSUANT to Requisition, a meeting of the signers of the Address to the People of Canada, in favour of a peaceable separation from Great Britain, and of Annexation to the United States, was held in the Temperance Hall, St. Maurice Street, on Thursday last, the 8th instant, at twelve o'clock noon, for the purpose of forming an Association for promoting that object. BENJAMIN HART, Esq., proposed that JOHN REDPATH, Esq., do take the chair, which was carried by acclamation.

Mr. REDPATH, accordingly assumed the chair, and Messrs. GLASS and J. B. E. DORION were appointed Secretaries.

Mr. REDPATH then rose and said that the meeting had been called for the purpose of forming an Association, composed of the persons who had signed the Address to the people of Canada, which had lately been published, and of all who were favorable to the separation of this country from Great Britain and its Annexation to the United States. He would read the Requisition calling the Meeting, which fully declared the object of the Meeting. [The gentleman here read the Requisition.] The gentlemen who would bring forward the several Resolutions which it was intended to submit to the Meeting, would, he had no doubt, convince them of the propriety and necessity of forming an Association for the purpose of carrying out the object of the Address, and he would not therefore take up the time of the meeting longer than a few moments, as he had a very few remarks to make. The Parliament of Great Britain had thought fit to change the commercial policy of the empire from a Protective to a Free Trade system. This change of system had been ruinous to this country. We had no right, however, to question the propriety of the change if it was made for the purpose of promoting the prosperity of England. If the new system was adopted for the purpose of giving cheap bread to her thirty millions of people, even although it should prove injurious to the million and a half of people in this country, we had no right to question the propriety of the change. They thought it would prove advantageous to the empire, and the English statesmen had a right to adopt it. We could not expect now that they would ever return to the policy which they had abandoned, and the people could not ask them to return—it would be too selfish of them to ask the people of England to return to a system which they thought injurious to them, even if it would benefit this country. But although they did not question the wisdom of the Imperial Parliament, they could not shut their eyes to the fact that its change of policy had brought this country to ruin. They saw their agriculturists obliged to sell their grain at a ruinous price. They saw their artizans obliged to leave the city in consequence of the want of employment. Real property had become a drug. Their Bank and Railroad stock had become depreciated more than one half of its value. Under these circumstances, it became them to consider whether it was not their duty to take measures to remedy those evils and to avert the calamities impending over the Country—to prevent it from being utterly ruined. Most of them had already proposed as the only effectual remedy, separation from Great Britain and annexation to the United States.—(Loud cheers.) If this was a mere theoretical remedy, there might have been some misgivings as to the result of the measure, but there was nothing theoretical about it—they had only an imaginary line dividing them from another country in which the people were prosperous. If they looked across that line they saw the agriculturists getting 20 per cent more for their produce than the farmers on this side of it got. They saw property one half more valuable than here. They saw mechanics getting higher wages and plenty of employment, and they saw the people peaceful, and happy, and contented with their government, which they not only though a good but the best government on the face of the earth. Every day they

back again. Some persons had lately endeavoured by figures to convince them that they were in a better state than they were; but those facts staring them in the face would carry far more conviction than all the figures that could be shown.—(Cheers.) In the Address they had issued, they stated the principles upon which it was intended the Association should act. And he hoped that nothing would ever be done but by the peaceful doctrines it contained, for he could never be a party to any other than peaceful measures. The address had generally been received with favour, except by a few interested men who were afraid of losing their places and salaries, and every day the people were becoming more favourable to it. They had seen what a change had taken place in the opinion of the country since it had been promulgated.—(Cheers.) They had seen the change which had taken place in the opinion of the League since then.—(Loud cheers.) The League would not listen to the doctrine at its first meeting, but now a great many of its members had begun to believe in it, and the members of the League are going exactly to the same place with them only they are going in a round about way, while they are going straight forward to it.—(Loud cheers.) He found the principal opponents to measure were those who were interested in keeping up the present form of government, who were afraid of the loss of their offices. There were also some, but very few, persons opposed to the measure from a principal of loyalty, and from attachment to the mother country, but he thought they would soon become favorable to the change. The present Government could never effectually resist the progress of annexation, unless they could place the people of Canada in as favorable a position as those of the United States. The Annexationists only desired to obtain their end by peaceable means, and their only hope of gaining it, was by making known to the country the true state of the case, and by convincing it of the merits of the measure which they proposed; and he hoped that they would persevere in their endeavors to obtain it by those means, for then they would be certain of ultimate success. They had nothing to gain by adopting any other means. Their opponents would be glad if they were to resort to violent measures, because they thought they would then be able to crush them; but he hoped nothing but peaceable and friendly means would ever be assented to. They must then, by all means, confine themselves to calm and temperate arguments and representations, and leave declamation and violence to their opponents.—Cheers. One of the advantages of this association would be that it would bring new measures before the country, without reference to party politics. It would have nothing to do with keeping one party in, or keeping another party out, and it would soon convince people of the impolicy of supporting either of the two parties into which the country was divided. The association would also tend to remove the dissentions now existing, which occurred between one portion of the community and the other. They would have nothing to do with the past. They had only one object in view, and that they would adhere to—to carry out the undertaking which they had begun, which they considered would prove advantageous to the country, the prosperity of which was their sole object. [The Chairman sat down amidst loud and prolonged cheering.]

Hugh Taylor, Esq., moved, and it was—

Resolved, 1.—"That it is expedient, under the evils that afflict our country, and the depression of its material interests, that all, animated by a desire for its welfare, should associate with the view to the attainment of a remedy; and we do, therefore, form ourselves into an association for that purpose, and, to promote the social amelioration of Canada, we adopt the sentiments of the *Address to the People of Canada*, published in the journals of the city in October last."

Jacob DeWitt, Esq., M.P.P., seconded the resolution, and said—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—In rising to second the resolution in your hand, I beg leave to say a few words. When we look around us, we see our country afflicted with many evils. I feel that we are called on to come forward and propose some remedy for our suffering country. Although I can expect to aid her only a feather's weight, yet, sir, I do not feel at liberty to withhold that feather's weight. We find the industrious classes leaving the land. I believe there is not a parish in Lower Canada that has not lost a portion of its inhabitants. The people are fast leaving the country, because they can get no reward for their labour. For instance, look at the price of peas in Canada and the United States. While they sell for 2s. to 2s. 6d. in Canada the price is 8s. 9d. to 5s. in the United States: and all other pro saw people leaving this to go to that country; but they never saw any of them coming

ce is much higher in the United States than in Canada. We cannot induce our ildren to settle and cultivate the land in Canada, because the produce will hardly y the labour of cultivation—the land, in many cases, placing the proprietors of the l in a worse position than the hired laborer. In fact, the labourer without land in e United States can earn more wages than many proprietors in Canada can obtain r the produce of their labour on their own farms: consequently, the land in Canada of little value, and this is one cause why property in Canada will not command more an one half the money that similar property will sell for in the United States. I ink we should adopt some means to keep our mechanics and farmers in our country—t them fill up the present parishes and townships—let them extend the settlement, nd not leave the country a desert. I would appeal to you, why is it that so many of e wealthy, moral, and industrious people who emigrate from the British Isles, come New York, and settle in the United States, and many of them, after passing hrough Canada, proceed to the Western States, thus enriching that country y their fortunes, their experience, their skill, their labour, and their example.—f Canada formed two independent States, in connection with the American Union, I believe a large portion of them would settle with us. If we are united with the United States, we shall have free trade, from Gaspé, through all the States and Territories of the United States to the Pacific Ocean. We shall have free navigation with all the nations of the earth. We shall have a trade so large, that we can send promptly, and at the lowest freight, any of our produce, fish, &c., to any part of the world, where it may command the best price. Our farmers would have the choice of all the markets of the United States, of Canada, and of all the nations of the world. Our manufactures would then have a fair chance of competiting, because they would be equally protected with the American, by their tariff. Then we should have ten times as many ships in Quebec as we have now. Now, Sir, look at the American canals, railroads, steamboats, and contrast them with our own; look at the steamboats leaving New York daily, with their 500 passengers each, and ours, leaving Quebec. Look at the prosperity that everywhere prevails among the cultivators, the mechanics, and the merchants, in the United States; see their immense merchant ships, carrying on their trade with all the nations of the world. Sir, we work for our country, for the whole family of Canada, and not for party, or pension, or place, *La Patrie avant tout.* We wish to exercise a real fraternal kind feeling towards all the people of Canada, and would take a legal constitutional course, and would, in respectful language, petition Her Majesty's Government to dissolve our political connection. Sir, I think no one who has a spark of liberty in his breast can object to this course. But, Mr. Chairman, because we are able to stand upright and candidly declare our conviction, and not bow down to any idol; and because we are, by Divine permission, enabled to take, as men, our rank in the scale of creation, a little lower than the angels, but not below creeping things, we must not be severe on our opponents; some of them may not be at liberty to give their attention to both sides of the question; we must be charitable: our cause is good; we can afford to disregard their abuse; we must overcome evil with good. Sir, I believe that many of the people of England, would be glad to hear that Canada had asked for a separation, to enable them, with honor, to dissolve our political connection, and thereby relieve them from the expense of defending us, and at the same time greatly increase their own trade. Sir, I trust that when this Province separates from the Parent State, the children may retain their affection and respect for the parent—and receive the Father's blessing.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

B. Holmes, Esq., M.P.P., said:—The 2nd resolution was put into his hands since he entered the room, with a request that he would move it. He had hoped to see it in the hands of some more capable individual, who could have done it more justice, nevertheless he would proceed with it; but in so doing he might be permitted to offer a few remarks upon what he humbly conceived to be the necessity which compelled to the course now under consideration, as well as the position in which, personally, we stand, when offering suggestions whereby we may escape the evils that beset us. Already had been put forth, in an Address to the People of Canada, the causes which induced its signers to seek for political change, for annexation to the United States of America, and here it is stated distinctly, that we should advocate only a peaceable separation from, and with the consent of, Great Britain, without which it would be neither desirable nor practicable. I sincerely hope, said Mr. H., nay, I believe, not a man among the signers to that address, affixed his signature under any feel-

ing of hostility to Britain. Of course, I cannot pledge myself for others; but if I believed it possible to maintain the existing connection, and at the same time had a reasonable hope that our country would not thereby be doomed to poverty and ruin, I for one would oppose what I now advocate—a peaceable and friendly severment of the political connexion between Canada and England, and annexation to the United States. We are told by those who have protested against the address, that the evils we complain of may be overcome by legislative enactments. Do they tell us, in their wisdom, what those legislative enactments are to be? No, that is left to fancy. But we are assailed and condemned in strong language, and misrepresented by those who dare not, while condemning, submit our address for the consideration of their own partisans and supporters. On looking over the list of signers to the protest, we discover among the few well known names which appear therein, the salaried officers of Government, a number of their clerks and dependents, some twenty or thirty known monopolists and protectionists, with five or six names, hitherto the strenuous advocates of free trade. He might remark upon the equivocating phraseology of the protest, but he did not come here to condemn or abuse others—our object is rather to invite argument—by organising an association which will submit to the farmers, mechanics, merchants and traders of Canada the reasons for advocating annexation, and leave them to determine whether the arguments are worthy of their support or not. It is admitted, I may almost say at all hands, that Canada must eventually form a portion of the Great American Republic,—that it is a mere question of time; but is said by those who assume to be exclusively loyal, that we ought, before mooting the question to exhaust every argument—make every effort to induce Great Britain to return to her Protective Policy. Some, also, affect to believe England, may by threats and fear of losing the Canadas be induced to return to her exploded system—they flatter themselves she will, for the benefit of the people of Canada, again enact Corn Laws; and again consign her working millions to the starvation from which they have latterly escaped by the repeal of those odious laws—laws which ground the labouring classes to abject misery, to increase the Revenues of a landed aristocracy. There may be some who deplore the abrogation of the Corn Laws of England—he trusted there were few in Canada. The industrial classes on this Continent, thank God, are not yet so debased, as to rejoice at, or seek to impose, a protective tax on the food of the poorer classes of England, even if it did advantage Canada. I believe, moreover, it is the height of folly to expect protection; and I believe, also, that no statesman in England would hazard the consequences, or assume the responsibility, of imposing again, a tax upon the food of the people of Britain, who, for the last 18 months have been quiet, contented, and comparatively happy, even surrounded and excited, as they were, by the Revolutions of Europe. During that period, the great mass of her population have enjoyed the advantages of free trade in provisions; will her masses consent quietly to starve again? I think not, even though it might increase the Revenues of the Landlords of England or benefit 1,500,000 Colonists in Canada.—Much has been said on the subject of the recent repeal of the navigation laws—that the changes incidental to that act of justice to this colony will be important, I have no doubt—it will relieve us from the monopolising tax of the British ship owner—and we shall, in all probability, by that change, be enabled to send our flour and timber to England at half the charge hitherto exacted from us; but the change we advocate presents something even better, (which is, a better market near at hand), a market to which the cost of transport is not a quarter of what, under the change anticipated, even with the repeal of the navigation laws, it will be to send our produce to Great Britain. We have immediately upon our borders, a people anxious for an unrestricted intercourse with us—he meant the people of Vermont, New York, Main, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire—they want our wheat and flour, our timber and other products; but they belong to the great confederacy of 23 millions, and cannot receive our products unless we pay a duty of 20 per cent thereon into the treasury of the United States; consequently, we are deprived of our best market—and, until we are annexed, we must pay that tax in support of the great Republic, for the honor of being connected with Great Britain. It is notorious that wheat, which is selling at Toronto for 3s. 9d., is, across the line, worth over 5s. per bushel. In Montreal, a barrel of the best superfine flour is worth 20s. 6d.; across the line it is worth 26s. Our farmers are selling their oats at 1s. the minot; at Burlington they are worth 36c. Peas, another considerable portion of the product of our farmers, are in Canada to be purchased at 2s.; they are worth, in New York, 75c. or 80c. Is it reasonable then that the farmers of Canada are to be deprived of the

advantage of those markets? Is it just in England to expect it? We may admire, we may love England; but our people cannot starve for the honour of her protection. I have seen it stated, and I believe it was correctly stated, that the average product of an acre of land in Canada West, was 15 bushels of wheat, which at 3s. 9d., its highest market value in Toronto, gives 56s. 3d.—the same product in Rochester, realises to the farmers 22s. 6d. more, for Wheat sells there at 5s. 2d. For the produce of his acre the Canadian farmer can purchase 1 cwt. of sugar, and have 10s. or 11s. to carry home to his family, while the American farmers just across the line, would buy the same quantity of sugar, and carry back $10 to his family; sugar on one side of the line costing to the consumer $5, on the other side $9 or $10 per cwt. This calculation was made for the meridian of Toronto, an equally striking difference exists on the immediate borders of Lower Canada. Here, it is the fashion to raise a revenue out of the pockets of the poorer classes—here we tax sugar, tea, coffee, rice and tobacco, from 25 to 75 or 90 per cent. The people of the United St tes pay no duty on those articles except on sugar, and that they raise at home—or if imported from a Foreign Land, a duty equal to 2s. 6d. on the cwt. of sugar only is levied; but here the impost is 11s. 3d. to 12s. 6d.—the poor man is taxed 80 per cent.—the rich man for his superfine coat 12½ per cent. Another portion of our trade, and that a vast one, is languishing for Annexation. The hardy lumberman, goes hundreds of miles into the uninhabited wilds and fells the tree, which is transported to Quebec, and sold in the shape of a square log for 3d. to 5d. a foot. It is sent to England at a cost of 9d. to 10d. a foot. Vast quantities of Lumber are requiring in the United States Markets, but to send it there the lumbermen must submit to 20 per cent tax. Were we annexed, England would continue to take our Timber, because she wants it; but we should have the New York Market also, and he would venture to assert that White Pine Timber would never again be purchased in Canada at 5d the foot, after Annexation. We are told that England will now urge upon the United States Government the granting to Canada of a Reciprocal Free Trade in the agricultural and mineral products of the Country. The United States Government two years ago, if the question had been zealously urged, might possibly have assented. That Government has, however, a desire to possess the Canadas, though she may not desire to war with England to obtain them; but the people see clearly, that the refusal of Reciprocal Free Trade with Canada, must render the people of Canada desirous of annexation, and finally, under any circumstances that must take place, the desire of the Republic will be gratified. Nature intended it; the interests of the people of Canada require it; and it must be. The result is simply, as our adversaries say, a question of time. But the American Legislature will never grant Reciprocity. It cannot, in my humble judgment, said Mr. H., be granted, without violating the 8th section of the first article of the Constitution of the U. S., which, among other things, provides "that all duties, imposts, and excise, shall be uniform throughout the United States." Can the American farmer on the Canada frontier, then, be subjected to a free trade competition, when the American farmers in Louisiana, or any other locality, where Canada products cannot reach, will be shielded by a protection of 20 per cent. Such an arrangement certainly would not be uniform. With what justice could the American farmer be left to compete with the Canadian farmer, while his neighbour, the mechanic or merchant, will have a protection on manufactures of 20 to 30 per cent. Free Trade, in the products of the farm, the forest, and the mine, will not enable us to become a manufacturing people. We should have but our own 1,500,000 to supply. We could not send the products of our industry into the United States—and without a more extensive demand than our own population will afford, manufactures could not flourish in Canada, and England will take especial care she does not encourage us to manufacture goods so long as we are a colony. It was said by William Pitt, the great Prime Minister of Britain, during the contest with the revolted colonies, now the United States, that they should not be allowed to make even a hob-nail. The same feeling is paramount still in England so far as her manufacturing interests are concerned. Manufactures in Colonies and Colonial dependence are incompatible. It costs no more to lay down a bale of raw cotton from its place of growth, in Sherbrooke than it does in Lowell. Our water privileges in Canada are far superior and ten times cheaper. We have an intelligent population seeking employment—and who will say the population of Canada is not intelligent? The farmer's daughter resorting to Lowell from the mountains of New Hampshire or Maine, secures at once 50c. per diem, for her labour: the Canadian female is glad to obtain work in the country at 12½ cents. Annexation would introduce American enterprise and American capital,

to erect buildings, and machinery, and we should see our country dotted all over wit manufactories; we should then compete successfully with Lowell in the supplying the Western States—or—the price of labour would be advanced from 100 to 200 pe cent., either result equally desirable to Canada.. If the people of Canada believe th statements we have, and shall, put forth, they will support us—if they are erroneou or unfounded, we look for no approval. If the people of Canada approve of what w now advocate, they will testify that approval at the polls—and support those, at th next General Election, who will advocate Annexation in the Legislature—whence if Resolutions are sent to England declaratory of the wishes of our people for a Sep aration, the Statesmen of England will advise the Sovereign to assent to their reques We should then have free trade, not only in the products of the soil, the forest an mine, but in manufactured goods. Free trade with 23 millions of people immediate on our borders. We should then, too, have cheap Government, and best of all w should then be an united, prosperous, and happy people.

Resolved, 2.—"That our state of colonial dependence can only be prolonged a the sacrifice of our most valuable interests, and that this meeting considering th social, commercial and political difficulties of Canada, and feeling the weight of th evils that oppress our society, believes that the only attainable measures capable o permanently improving our condition, consists in a peaceable separation from Gre Britain, with her consent, and the annexation of Canada to the United States o America."

William Molson, Esq., seconded the resolution.

The second resolution was then put and carried without a dissenting voice.

Robert McKay, Esq., moved the 3rd resolution.

A. A. Dorion, Esq., seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Resolved 3.—"That the name of our Association shall be, 'The Annexation Association of Montreal,' and that the following be the Constitution and Rule thereof:—

"I. The name of the Association shall be, '*The Annexation Association of Montreal*.' The Association is formed to promote, by lawful means, particularly b petitioning, a Friendly and Peaceable Separation from British Connexion, and a Union, upon equitable terms, with the United States.

"II. Any person who has signed the Address to the people of Canada, published in the journals of this city of October, 1849, or who may, hereafter, sign these Rule may be a Member of the Association.

"III. The funds shall be made up of voluntary donations.

"IV. The Officers shall be elected annually by ballot, and shall be one President; Eight Vice-Presidents, Two Secretaries; One Treasurer; Eight Councillors and the whole of the said Officers shall constitute the Executive of the Association, an any five shall be a Quorum.

"V. The President shall preside at all meetings. He shall not vote except upo an equality of votes occurring. In the absence of the President the Senior Vice President present at any meeting shall act as President, and in the absence of th Vice-Presidents, one of the Councillors present shall be chosen to act by those present

"VI. The Secretaries shall conduct the correspondence and keep a record of a proceedings.

"VII. The Treasurer shall have charge of all funds. He shall pay drafts upo him, when signed by the President, or one of the Vice-Presidents, and countersigned by one of the Secretaries. He shall keep a regular account of the Financial Concerns and submit it at every annual meeting, and at other times when called for by th Executive.

"VIII. The Executive shall have power to superintend the correspondence to manage and control the funds, and generally to conduct the affairs of the Associa tion.

"IX. On the occurrence of any vacancy in the Executive, the members presen at any meeting afterwards may, by the majority of them then present, elect by ballo a person to fill such vacancy, notice being given at a previous meeting.

"X. General Meetings of the Association shall be held quarterly, on the 10th October, 10th January, 10th April, 10th July; and the October Meeting—except thi year—shall be for the purpose, among other things, of electing the Officers. If any o

the days above named, fall on a Sunday or a Holiday, then the meetings shall be on next week day, not a Holiday.

"XI. The Executive shall have power to call Special General Meetings, and shall be bound to call such meetings on a written application from twelve members, stating the special purpose of such meeting, and no other business shall be entertained at such meeting.

"XII. No alteration shall be made in these Rules except at a General Meeting, after three months notice, and by a vote of two-thirds of those present.

"XIII. The Executive may make such Bye-Laws (not inconsistent with these Rules) as they see necessary."

John Ross, Esq., then addressed the meeting. He said, amongst other observations, it is easy to raise an inconsiderate cry of treason and disloyalty, but from the time the Province was conquered to the present day, we find abundant justification of our course in the declarations of many of the leading statesmen of England with respect to the continuance of that connection whose advantage and disadvantage to us we are now called on dispassionately to investigate. Was there treason in the opinion of Lord St. Vincent expressed to Lord Shelburne, on the signing the peace of 1783—"How can you hope to keep Canada, with an English republic established in its sight! It is impossible, and rely on it, you only retain a running sore, the source of endless disgust and expense. Nothing but difficulty in keeping or resigning it will be known." But this declaration from so able a statesman and so great a soldier—one too, whose valor had mainly contributed to the conquest of the very country he sought to abandon, does not stand alone. Lord Brougham described the same acquisition as "loading the policy of England with a burden not *yet shaken* off, and which is every day more difficult to bear." And what was the opinion of Mr. Stevens, formerly Under Secretary of State for the Colonies? In his evidence before the House of Commons in 1828, he uttered sentiments, which I, for one, utterly condemn and repudiate, but which are indicative of the same sentiment that has prevailed in the minds of many of England's ablest men, from 1783 to the present hour. Mr. Stevens says—"The ties by which the people are bound to their Sovereign are not of the same strong and enduring character as the corresponding obligations between the king and the people of the old European States. It is impossible to suppose the Canadians dread your power; it is not easy to believe that the abstract *duty* of loyalty, as distinguished from the *sentiment* of loyalty, *can be very strongly felt. The right of rejecting European dominion has been so often asserted in North and South America, that revolt can scarcely be esteemed on those Continents as criminal or disgraceful.* Neither does it seem to me that the sense of national pride and importance is in your favour. It cannot be regarded as an enviable distinction, to remain the only dependent portion of the new world." Let it be understood, while I state Mr. Stevens opinions, that I utterly disclaim his morality. Lord Ashburton, too, in a recent debate, utters a corresponding sentiment.—"As long as they (the Canadians) were content to remain in their present condition, under the protection of this country, it was well that they should so continue; but if they demand to be separate—to take on themselves a national character—then it appeared to him that it would be the wisest course, the most liberal, and the most consistent with sound policy, to shake hands with them, and let them join the North Americans, if they so thought fit. If the grandeur of England should fade, and her prosperity decay, the greatest monument of her glory would remain in her colonies." Were it necessary, I might multiply citation on citation to prove that England considers, and has for years considered, our present relations to her both burdensome and unprofitable; and if this be true, are we to be unmanly and ungenerous enough to seek to perpetuate that burden? Has she not sought to train us to self-reliance and to fit us for self Government? Has not the policy towards us been dictated by that considerate and maternal regard for our future destiny which demands our gratitude, while it exacts our co-operation? What would be thought of the offspring of any parent who, after attaining a vigorous puberty, should cling with childish tenacity to the paternal roof, perpetuating a dependence which, but wasted the parents substance, refusing in opposition to that parent's wish to enter on an independant condition, and seek an alliance which promised relief to the parent and honorable distinction to the child? Let us rather show ourselves to be the true offspring of so noble a stem.—Think you, that England would have ever risen to her present pitch of greatness, had her sons in times past been content with the dependent condition we now occupy towards her, and had they indulged to the exclusion of all use, a sentiment only of attachment to a relation, to which, as men conscious of self-capacity, it

became them not to adhere. There cannot, to my mind, be a grander or more sublime thought than that the parent state, after training her Colonial subjects to self-reliance, should, with feelings of kindred affection and pride, seek to elevate them to a position among the nations of the world, to perpetuate her institutions and secure alies on whose affection and duty she might rely and look for succour in the time of need. Had the separation of the old Colonies been consummated in this spirit would not their relations to the parent state have been such as I am now depicting? And, notwithstanding the irritating circumstances which accompanied their separation, time has buried much in oblivion; and who will deny that England regards, with a feeling of pride, the position which her offspring now occupies among the nations of the earth. The *possibility* of a change is, no doubt, so repugnant to some whom early associations have connected them intimately with England, that they would sooner relinquish all earthly possessions than the heritage of being an Englishmen. This chivalrous and impassioned devotion I admire and respect. It emanates from the same feeling which actuates us to show our attachment to her institutions and laws, and that freedom and independence—the possession of which is our birthright. To my own feelings, I do not hesitate to avow that the idea of a change is repugnant and forbidding. But it is our duty to sink these personal considerations in deciding on so momentous a question as the present. There is no need to quench that attachment and affection that binds us to the land of our birth: no, it will burn more brightly as we feel ourselves in the full possession of those privileges which we conceive will flow upon us. I have but one other consideration to bring under your notice, and it is this—there is a strong, almost universally prevailing conviction, even among those who oppose us, that sooner or later the change we contemplate must take place. If this be true, on what grounds should we desire to continue the state of transition? To protract is cruelty; and are we unmanly enough to leave, as a legacy to our children, a task from the performance of which we shrink ourselves?

He concluded by moving—

4.—"That we bind ourselves towards each other (burying in oblivion all past dissensions) cordially to co-operate in such means as may best promote the objects of the Association; and we invite the people of Canada, generally, to form similar Associations in the same fraternal spirit."

Mr. Labrecq, seconded the resolution.

F. G. Johnson, Esq., moved—

5.—"That this meeting do now adjourn to this day week, in this place at noon, then to meet for the election of officers, and that the following gentlemen be a Committee to nominate a ticket for consideration: R. MacKay, A. A. Dorion, D. Torrance, H. Mulholland, J. Ostell, Esqs.

The resolution was then put and carried.

Benjamin Hart, Esq., then moved that Mr. Redpath do leave the chair, and that William Molson, Esq., do take it,

When the thanks of the meeting were given to the Chairman for his services in the chair.

After which the meeting adjourned to Thursday next at noon.

ANNEXATION ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

The meeting for the election of Officers, was held on Thursday, in the Temperance Hall, St. Maurice Street, and was occupied upwards of three hours in the ballot and scrutinising thereon. Mr. Redpath was called to the chair by acclamation; John Glass and A. A. Dorion, Esqrs., Secretaries and Scrutineers.

President—John Redpath, Esq.

Vice-Presidents—B. Holmes, Jacob DeWitt, W. Workman, L. H. Holton, T. B. Anderson, D. E. Papineau, P. Drumgoole, John Donegani, Esqrs.

Councillors—D. Kinnear, H. Stephens, Wm. Molson, John Rose, Jos. Papin, R. Ladamme, John Bell, John Ostell, Esqrs.

Treasurer—David Torrance, Esq.

Secretaries—Robert Mackay. A. A. Dorion, Esqrs.

James Potts, Printer, Herald Office, Montreal.

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